In accordance with the postulates of NPE, it has been decided to launch National Literacy Mission which aims at coverage of 3 crore illiterate persons in 15—35 age group by 1990 and an additional 5 crore by 1995.

Interdisciplinary courses for teachers of Delhi University

434. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi University is proposing to introduce interdisciplinary courses for the benefit of teachers employed in different faculties and colleges of the Delhi University; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the same and by when these are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Training for F.R.C.S. degree in Madras

435. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a hospital in Madras is providing training for F.R.C.S. degree;

(b) if so, whether Government and the Indian Medcal Council gave their approval for such a training; and

(c) whether the F.R.C.S. degree so obtained is recognised by the Indian Medical Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No such information has been brought to the notice of Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) F.R.C.S. degrees obetained after 11th November, 1978 from the U.K. are not recognised by the Medical Council of India.

Strike by the Doctors of Central Government

436. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that doctors employed under Central Government and under Delhi Administration, MCD and NDMC held 'dharna' recently protesting against what they called the low pay scale and poor working conditions;

(b) if so, what exactly are their demands and whether they have been examined and any decisions taken on them;

(c) whether it is proposed to introduce any time bound promotions for such doctors; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Some of the members of the Joint Council of Central Health Service & Other Service Doctors Association staged 'dharna' in support of their demands submitted to Government.

(b) to (d) A statement giving the requisite information is attached.

Statement

The salient features of the demands are as follows:—

(i) Higher scale of pay at the entry point than those recommended by the Pay Commission.

(ii) Three time bound promotion in the first 15 years of service.

(iii) Non-Practising Allowance at the rate of 50 per cent of the revised pay scale without ceiling failing which they should be permitted private practice. Non-Practising Allowance to be treated as part of pay for all purposes pertaining to Government service.

(iv) Other demands like grant of Conveyance Allowance at higher rates, Rural Area Allowance, Administrative Allowance, Teaching|Specialist Allowance, Risk Allowance, Special Pay and Professional Allowance. Age of retirement should be enhanced to 62 to 65 and there should be unified cadre of Central Health Service instead of four Sub-cadres.

After examining all the demands a package has been offered on 19-7-1987 to the Doctors. The main features of this package are as follows:—

(i) Medical Officers will get promotion to the post of Senior Medica Officer after 5 years by suitable adjustment of cadre strength. Senior Medical Officer will be enter the next grade of Chief Medical Officer after 9 years of services as Senior Medical Officer by providing adequate number of posts. The quota of non-functional selection grade posts is to be increased from 20 to 30 per cent of the number of posts of Chief Medical Officers. Assistant Professor will be able to secure promotion as Associate Professor after 3 years and Associate Professor can hope to get a selection grade of Rs. 4500-5700 after 6 years of service. A new intermediate scale of Rs. 3700-5000 is being introduced for Specialist Grade-II Officers of Non-Teaching and Public Health Subcadre which they will be getting after 5 years of service. The specialist grade-II Officers in this Sub-cadre will be considered for placement in the scale of Rs. 4500-5700 after 9 years of service in Specialist Grade-II. All these placements in higher grades will be arranged by suitable restructuring of the cadre.

(ii) The Non-Practising Allowance has been increased from Rs. 150 to Rs. 450 and from Rs. 600 to Rs. 900. The rate of Conveyance Allowance has also been increased and it has been introduced for Specialists in hospitals. An Annual Allowance of Rs. 3000 for professional pursuits has been accepted for specialists.

A Cadre-review Committee has been set up to make recommendations for improving career progression of the officers in different Sub-cadres and various grades in these Sub-cadre, including Supertime Grade.

As the Joint Action Council did not accept the package offered to them. Detailed discussions were held with the council on 25-7-1987 and the implications of the package and clarifications required in his connection were explained. Further concessions were offered to them. The numbers of the Council however declined to accept the package offered to them.

International Airlines to overfly India

437. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many international airlines are thinking to overfly India in view of the existing high cost of fuel in India; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Whereas some International airlines operating to India had expressed concern over the price of